

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/614,237
Response filed February 24, 2005
Reply to OA dated November 1, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a high-strength stainless steel bolt, comprising the steps of forming a lubricant coating on the surface of an austenitic stainless steel wire material to obtain a lubricated wire material; cold forming the lubricated wire material within a degree-of-working range of from 0.5 to 1.5 as defined in a natural logarithmic value of the working distortion such that a head portion is bulged as a result of axial compression of the cold formed wire material and a threaded shank portion formed of part of the bolt material extruded under said axial compression and radially compressed; and then subjecting said threaded shank portion to form rolling, said lubricant coating being free from exfoliation and destruction at said degree of working range.

Claim 2 (Original). A method of manufacturing a high-strength stainless bolt according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of removing the lubricant coating from the surface of the material and subjecting said material to a passivation processing.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A high-strength stainless bolt, comprising a surface thereof that is formed of the passivated austenitic stainless steel having a tensile strength of at least 1100 Mpa, wherein the high-strength stainless bolt is manufactured by forming a lubricant coating on the surface of an austenitic stainless steel wire material to obtain a lubricated wire material; cold forming the lubricated wire material within a degree-of-working range of from 0.5 to 1.5 as defined in a

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natural logarithmic value of the working distortion such that a head portion is bulged as a result of axial compression of the cold formed wire material and a threaded shank portion formed of part of the bolt material extruded under said axial compression and radially compressed; and then subjecting said threaded shank portion to form rolling, said lubricant coating being free from exfoliation and destruction at said degree of working range.